

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 126071
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /015 R

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APPROVED BY:S/S-O:TGMARTIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

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FOL SANTO DOMINGO 2646 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON
PANAMA USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS MAY 18, 1978 REPEATED TO
YOU QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTO DOMINGO 2646

LONDON FOR ARA DAS BUSHNELL

PANAMA FOR ROBERT PASTOR, NSC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PEPR, DR

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES JCE BACK AT VOTE COUNTING

1. AT 8:30 TONIGHT, UNIDENTIFIED SPOKESMAN FOR CENTRAL ELECTORAL
BOARD (JCE), WHOSE OPERATIONS WERE HALTED 28 HOURS EARLIER,
MADE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT:

BEGIN TEST: THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL BOARD INFORMS THE CITIZENRY
THAT IT HAS BEEN TAKING THE PERTINENT MEASURES TO NORMALIZE
THE SITUATION OF SOME MUNICIPAL POLLING PLACES IN THE INTERIOR
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PAGE 02 STATE 126071

OF THE COUNTRY AND THE POLLING PLACE OF THE NATIONAL DISTRICT
SO THAT THESE ORGANIZATIONS MAY COMPLETE THE COMPUTATIONS OF THE
ELECTION POLLS. AS SOON AS THE CENTRAL BOARD RECEIVES THE VOTING
REPORTS OF EACH MUNICIPALITY AND NATIONAL DISTRICT IT WILL PROCEED
TO MAKE THE GENERAL COMPUTATION OF THE VOTING FOR NATIONAL
ELECTIVE OFFICES AND FOR THE OFFICES OF SENATORS AND DEPUTIES.
IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THESE TASKS THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL

BOARD WILL CONTINUE AS IT HAS UNTIL NOW TO CARRY OUT ITS
ACTIVITIES IN STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE LEGAL NORMS AND
IMPARTIALITY THAT HAVE GOVERNED ITS ACTIONS. THE PEOPLE CAN THUS
HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT THE BOARD WILL TAKE ALL MEASURES SO THAT THE
FINAL RESULT OF THE ELECTIONS MAY REPRESENT THE EXPRESSION OF THE
POPULAR WILL FREELY EXPRESSED AT THE URNS. END TEXT.

2. COMMENT. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, THE FIRST OFFICIAL WORD
ON THE ELECTORAL SITUATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT SINCE THE MILITARY
COMMUNIQUE THIS MORNING DENYING A COUP, IS NOT LIKELY TO ALTER
THE WIDESPREAD BELIEF THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS RESTORED TO
MASSIVE FRAUD. PRD REQCTION REPORTED SEPTTEL. YOST UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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